

Attachment 3B(1)

Explanatory Note for Farm Service Agency (FSA) Report November 2, 2009

FSA has determined that the following programs receiving an appropriation from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be considered categorically excluded at the programmatic level and therefore, are excluded from the preparation of environmental assessments or environmental impact statements:

- *IT Stabilization/Modernization* – funding for the stabilization and modernization of computer systems – falls under routine activities [7 CFR 1b.3(a)(1)]
- *2008 Aquaculture Assistance* – increases maximum program spending for grants to states – falls under activities which deal solely with the funding of programs [7 CFR 1b.3(a)(2)]
- *Farm Direct Operating Loans* – funding for costs associated with operating the direct farm operating program – falls under [7 CFR 1940.310(e)(1)]
- *Agriculture Disaster Relief* – provides financial assistance for qualified producers who experienced a crop loss in 2008 - falls under activities which deal solely with the funding of programs [7 CFR 1b.3(a)(2)]

Since the last report, 24 projects were withdrawn from the Farm Direct Operating Loans Program per the applicants request.

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